

MACK MATTHEWS
GEORGIAUNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Executive Registry

83-3638

July 7, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The recent action taken by the House of Representatives in deleting from H.R. 2969, the FY 84 Defense Authorization bill, certain production funds that had been requested by you for the initiation of a chemical weapons protective and retaliatory program emphasizes, in my view, the importance of undertaking an immediate review and declassification of all appropriate information held by our government that pertains to the activities of the Soviet Union with the research, development, testing, production, transfer and/or use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons.

It is apparent to me that the chemical weapons program that you wish to initiate and that I believe is vital to our national security will not be funded by Congress unless the American people have an opportunity to assess the data on Soviet activities.

An informed public would not only be a key factor in securing the necessary funds for chemical weapons production but would also be a significant asset during the current nuclear "freeze" debate and with your efforts to obtain true arms reduction agreements with the Soviets.

Just as you decided several months ago that a similar review and declassification process involving photographs and information relating to Soviet activities in the Caribbean would advance U.S. interests, so I believe that a similar process applied to Soviet chemical, biological and toxin activities would significantly enhance the chances of success for the efforts being made by you to secure the peace through a position of strength.

Please give this matter your immediate and personal attention. Your action on this proposal could well be crucial in achieving the goals that I know you and I share.

Sincerely,